

Message Text

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66

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15 STR-08

CEA-02 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 RSR-01 /164 W

----- 037777

R 081733Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2413

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, XF

SUBJ: ARAB GRAIN PURCHASING EFFORTS

1. HAARETZ PARIS CORRESPONDENT MAISSI TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 7 THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY QUAI ECONOMIC DIVISION OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR MIDDLE EAST THAT GOF HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY SEVERAL ARAB GOVERNMENTS WITH REQUESTS FOR FRENCH WHEAT, ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT EGYPTIAN FOOD MINISTER RECENTLY VISITED PARIS WITH URGENT REQUEST FOR FRENCH GRAIN. THIS REQUEST SUBSEQUENTLY FOLLOWED BY REQUESTS FROM BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH YEMEN. FRENCH REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT THEY HAD NO GRAIN FOR EXPORT IN VIEW COMMITMENTS TO FRANCOPHONE AFRICA, AND THAT IN ANY CASE, ISSUE SHOULD BE RAISED BY ARABS IN BRUSSELS IN EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CONTEXT. EGYPTIAN DELEGATION ALLEGEDLY TOOK FRENCH ADVICE AND WENT TO BRUSSELS.

2. COMMENT: MAISSI INTERPRETED REPORT AS EVIDENCE OF PANICKY ARAB REACTION TO POSSIBILITIES OF WORLD GRAIN SHORTAGE.

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HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT FRENCH RELUCTANCE MEET DEMANDS BASED ON

SCEPTICISM ABOUT ARAB ABILITY TO PAY. MAISSI CLAIMS
THAT FRENCH INCREASINGLY SCEPTICAL ABOUT ARAB CREDIT
WORTHINESS AND THAT THIS HAD LED TO RETRENCHMENT IN
FRENCH PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IN ARAB COUNTRIES. EMBASSY
HAS NO CONFIRMATION OF EGYPTIAN OR YEMENI EFFORTS TO OBTAIN
FRENCH GRAIN, THOUGH MAISSI IS USUALLY WELL-INFORMED
JOURNALIST.
STONE

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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